

in their lives, a chapter that we will help them write by giving them every opportunity to have a year of safe and enjoyable memories. Three of the wounded, Valeen Schnurr, Lisa Kreutz, and Jeanna Park, received their diplomas last Spring, and have now begun the important step of continuing on with life after such a tragic event.

This tragedy has caused us as Americans to reevaluate and reflect on our own moral and social values and to reexamine the role that we play as parents, relatives, and family members in the lives of our nation's children. This tragedy has driven many of us to work to bring not only healing, but also a reformation of our way of life. Everyone who lives in America felt what happened to those students. The phrase, "it can't happen in my backyard" is now gone for the residents of the Sixth District.

I do, however, feel hope and inspiration today. I feel a sense of hope when I see and hear the determination and genuine concern that individuals have when discussing our schools and a desire to make them a safe and prosperous environment. I feel a great sense of inspiration in these students and teachers who are walking back through the same doors they ran out on April 20, 1999. In fact, as of August 2, no students had applied for a transfer from Columbine. We are witnessing real courage.

I ask that my colleagues in the United States Congress, any my fellow citizens, pray for the students of Columbine High School as they start a new year. Pray that the smiles of youth return to these students. Pray that we have the power and the faith to do our part to ensure that this horrible violation of innocence is never repeated again.

And, most of all, pray for the families of: Cassie Bernall, Steven Curnow, Corey DePooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Daniel Mauser, Daniel Rohrbough, Rachel Scott, Isaiah Shoels, John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velazques, and Dave Sanders, the twelve students and one teacher who will not be starting school this year.

#### HONORING ST. BARTHOLOMEW SCHOOL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the St. Bartholomew School in Elmhurst, Queens on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

St. Bartholomew has been in the forefront of providing a quality value-based education to the children of the community for three-quarters of a century. The School, the third largest Catholic parochial school in the entire Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, currently has an enrollment of some 650 students and is accredited by the prestigious Middle States Association.

St. Bart's, as it is affectionately known, first opened its doors in 1923, and has since then been an integral and significant element in the

life of the Elmhurst community. Elmhurst was recently identified in the September issue of National Geographic magazine as "Elmhurst 11373, the most ethnically diverse zip code in the United States." Affiliated with St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Parish, St. Bart's School ably reflects that rich diversity of heritage in a most enthusiastic way, welcoming students of many religions and national origins to participate in its outstanding academic program.

In addition to a full schedule of academic subjects, students in all grades receive instruction in computer skills, physical education, and library science, and participate in a host of interesting and informative clubs and extracurricular activities. But most importantly, the religious and lay faculty cooperate in striving for the utmost creativity in education, emphasizing values and excellence in an atmosphere of healthy academic discipline.

Finally, I would like to commend Sister Augusta Conter, o.p., Principal, and Mr. Thomas Straczynski, Social Studies teacher and Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee, as well as all of the committee members whose tireless efforts made the anniversary and its many events a tremendous success.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying this 75th Anniversary tribute to a superb institution of learning and to the people who help make it all possible.

#### IN HONOR OF PRIVATE HARRY H. MARGOLIS

##### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, Pericles said, while speaking at a funeral for fallen soldiers, "If our country should appear great to you, remember that her glories were purchased by brave and valiant men, by men who knew their duty." I rise today to honor one such man, Private Harry H. Margolis. Pvt. Margolis was born on September 8, 1913, and died 30 years later in France during World War II. When he began his active service 10 months earlier, he left behind in New York his wife Isobel, their 17-month-old son Harvey, and his parents.

Many years later, Pvt. Margolis' son began to wonder if his father should have been awarded a medal for his sacrifice that day in 1944. His mother then called my office in response to her son's inquiry. Now, exactly 55 years and 1 day after Pvt. Margolis perished at the Battle of St. Louis, he has been awarded the Purple Heart. He has finally received the recognition he so richly deserves and his family can rest assured that the United States of America is deeply grateful for the life that was given in her name on July 11th, 1944. Such glorious gifts will never be forgotten.

#### HONORING THE ALBANIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Albanian American Women's Organization (AAWO), "Motrat Qiriazhi." The AAWO is a nonprofit group committed to the advancement of Albanian Women within their families, communities, and society.

The Albanian American Women's Organization was founded in 1993 by a small group of Albanian immigrants in New York City. "Motrat Qiriazhi" is named for sisters Qiriazhi, the first Albanian women educators who dedicated their lives to the empowerment of Albanian women. The organization is composed entirely of volunteers and numbered more than 1,200 in 1998.

When the situation deteriorated in Kosovo, the AAWO began to focus its attention on helping the people in crisis. In 1999, the AAWO raised \$54,000 and developed strong ties with organizations like the International Rescue Committee. The leadership of the AAWO met with First Lady Hillary Clinton at the White House on August 2, 1999. They are currently involved in giving support to recent immigrants and refugees, including providing host families and job placement.

Once again, I offer my most heartfelt commendation to the AAWO for their hard work and commitment to helping people both in the United States and throughout the Balkans.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent and unable to vote due to my recovery from heart surgery, August 2, 1999—August 6, 1999.

On August 2, 1999: I would have voted in favor of the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2488 (Rollcall number 356). I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 747 (Rollcall number 357). I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1219 (Rollcall number 358). I would have voted against the Andrews amendment to H.R. 2606 (Rollcall number 359).

On August 3, 1999: I would have voted against the Paul amendment to H.R. 2606 (Rollcall number 360). I would have voted against the Paul amendment to H.R. 2606 (Rollcall number 361). I would have voted in favor of the H.R. 2606 (Rollcall number 362). I would have voted in favor of the engrossment and third reading of H.R. 2031 (Rollcall number 363). I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2031 (Rollcall number 364). I would have voted against H.J. Res. 58 (Rollcall number 365). I would have voted against H.R. 987 (Rollcall number 366).

On August 4, 1999: I would have voted in favor of approving the journal (Rollcall number